

Office of Attorney General Terry Goddard



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Terry Goddard to Discuss Internet Safety with Flagstaff Students

(Phoenix, Ariz. – Sept. 16, 2008) Attorney General Terry Goddard will discuss Internet safety with 700 students at Flagstaff Middle School on Wednesday, September 17.

Goddard's presentation, starting at 12:45 p.m., will emphasize precautions young people should take with social networking Web sites, such as myspace.com and facebook.com. He also will talk about teens who have been victims of Internet exploitation and cyberbullying.

Event Information:

Event: Internet Safety Presentation
When: Wednesday, Sept. 17
Time: 12:45
Where: Flagstaff Middle School
755 N. Bonito St.
Flagstaff, Ariz.
Note: Event is open to the media.

Internet safety is a topic of growing importance. Young people are spending more time online, and many are unaware of the dangers they can encounter. A recent survey conducted by Cox Communications and the National Center for Missing and Exploited children found that 30 percent of kids between 13 and 17 have considered having a face-to-face meeting with someone they first met online. The survey found that 14 percent actually had the meeting.

Internet Safety School Tour

The Attorney General's Office began its statewide Internet Safety School Tour in 2006 to teach middle school students, parents and educators about ways to keep kids safe online. Since then, Goddard and Attorney General's Office staff have spoken face-to-face with over 20,000 students across Arizona as well as numerous PTA groups and statewide educational associations.

While technology changes rapidly, key tips for keeping students safe online remain the same, including:

- Never give out personal identifying information, such as your last name, date of birth or address, online.
- Students should never meet in person with someone they first “met” online.
- If your children use a social networking site, such as myspace.com or facebook.com, ask them to show you their profile and talk with them about how they use the site.
- Once something is posted online, it is there forever; never post anything online that you would not want printed in the paper with your name attached to it.
- Students should always tell a trusted adult if anything they encounter online makes them scared or upset.
- Parents should monitor their children’s online habits and keep computers and any other equipment that is connected to the Internet (such as video game consoles) in a place in the house where they can see it.

For more Internet safety tips or to download a copy of the Attorney General’s updated Internet safety brochure, go to the Attorney General’s Web site, www.azag.gov, and click on “Internet Safety.” For more information, contact Anne Hilby at (602) 542-8019.

Attorney General’s Office staff members are available to schedule an Internet safety presentation at your school or community group throughout the year. For more information, go to the Attorney General’s Web Site, email communityservices@azag.gov or call (602) 542-2123.

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